

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A decision tree, representing a knowledge base, is segmented into at least two decision tree portions. The lower portion includes the tree entry point and is stored in a memory element with a faster access time than the upper portion, which includes the terminating element of the decision tree. Thus during the process of reading the tree entries for comparing them with the search object, the search entries in the lower portion of the tree can be read faster than the search entries in the upper portion, resulting in a faster traversal through the entire decision tree.